

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Stafford Hall Inventory Number: WA-V-010
Address: Cohill Road, 1/2 mile north of U.S. 40 City: Clear Spring Zip Code: 21722
County: Washington USGS Topographic Map: Washington County - Clear Spring Quad
Owner: Alice Cohill Marquez & Nancy Cohill Manuel Is the property being evaluated a district? NO
Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Project: Martin Farm Agency: Federal Communications Commission
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet, Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service dated August 1973

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The property was most recently observed and photographed on January 15, 2003. The condition of the property appeared virtually unchanged since the preparation of the Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet, Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Parks Service, in the library of the Maryland Historical Trust.

The property is described in the Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet, Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Parks Service, prepared by Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant, of Washington County Historic Sites Survey, in August, 1973. Following is a brief summary of that property description, as modified by site observations made January 15, 2003.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

James J. Taylor
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/2/03
Date

Reviewer ND Program

Date

B. Kuntz 5/24/03

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

WA-V-10

The house is described as

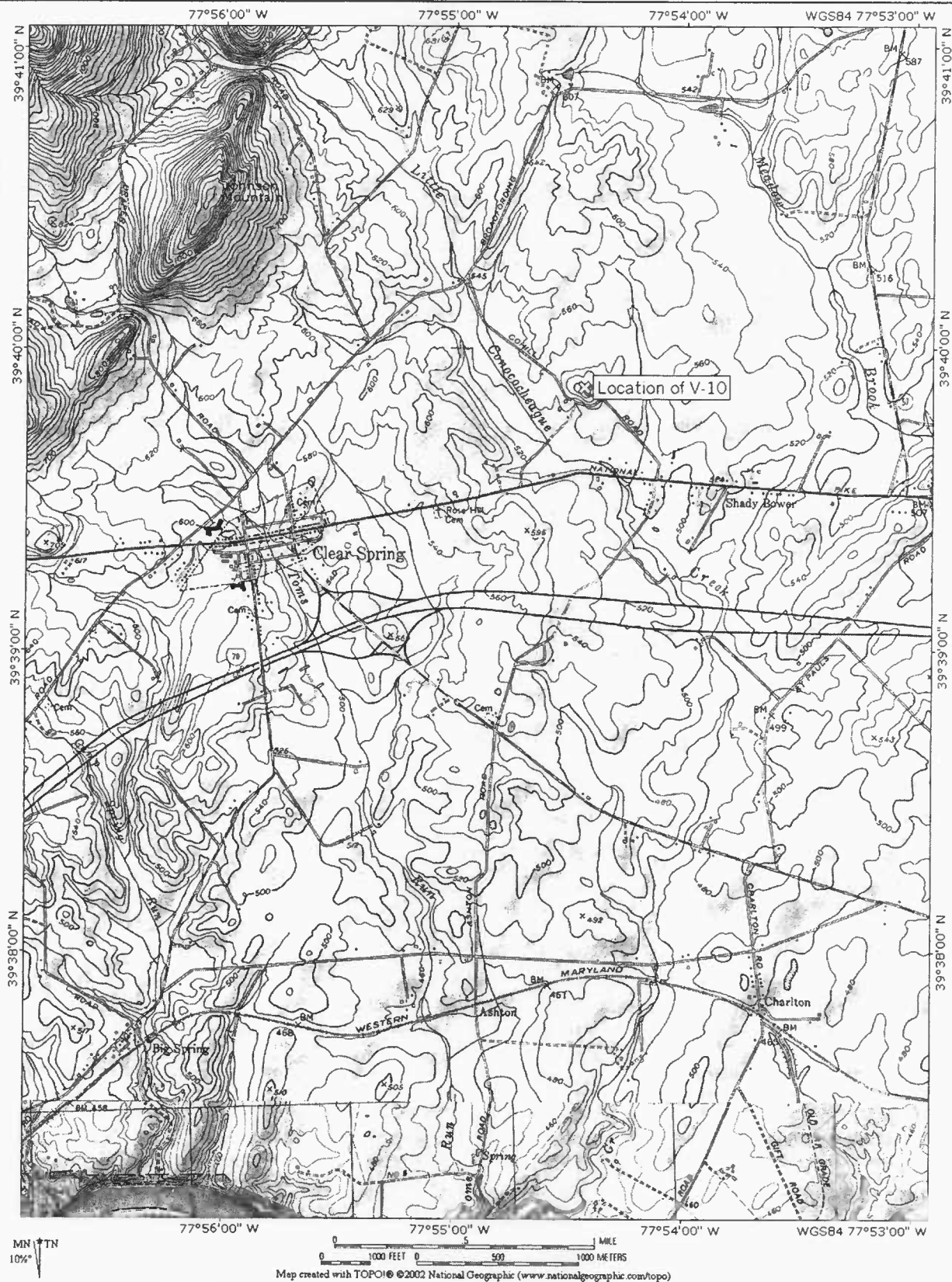
"a large two-story brick dwelling,... with three bays across the central block which is flanked by symmetrical wings one bay in width. The central block has a hipped roof which is topped by a balustrade connecting double interior chimneys. The wings each have inside end chimneys. A small pedimented dormer is centered on the roof. Behind the central block and its wings is a long el consisting of two gable roofed sections connected on an axis and extending to the rear or north of the front section. The entire el is ten bays in length. Both sections of the el have inside end chimneys as well as interior chimneys... A [modern] one-bay, one-story entrance porch sheds the front door; also there is a double porch which extends along the length of the south portion of the el. Five square posts at each level support this porch."

The importance of the property in regional history (See WA-V-009), as well as the outbuildings and other intact contextual elements, make this property eligible for registration under Criteria B and C, "Person" and "Design/Construction", respectively.

Prepared by:

William C. Riggs, RA
Historic Architect

Date Prepared: 01.28.03



SITE VICINITY MAP
 Clear Spring, MD Quadrangle
 SCALE: As Shown



Property Condition Assessment
 WA-V-010_ Stafford Hall
 Clear Spring, MD 21722



STAFFORD HALL WA-V-010
WASHINGTON COUNTY MARYLAND
TAKEN BY: C. MENDS-CALF
DATE: JAN 2003
NEGATIVE LOCATION: MD SHPO 1/2

STAFFORD HALL WA-V-010

STAFFORD HALL WA-V-010
CLEAR SPRING, MD 21722
01.03

Photo Gallery 01 00 00



STAFFORD HALL VA-V-010
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD
PHOTO BY: C. MENOS-COLE
DATE: JAN 03
NEGATIVE LOCATION: MD SHPO

4/-

STAFFORD HALL VA-V-010
CLEAR SPRING, MD 21722
01.03

Photo Gallery, 01/29/03

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Stafford Hall				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Route 1, Cohill Road, 1/2 mile north of U.S. 40, approx. 2 miles NE of Clear Spring				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Clear Spring				
STATE		COUNTY:		
Maryland		Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Leo A. Cohill et al				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Route 1				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Clear Spring			Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Hagerstown			Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 387/667				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
Maryland Historical Trust Survey, #4011				
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
2525 Riva Road				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Annapolis			Maryland	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stafford Hall is located just north of Cohill Road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the junction with U.S. 40 about two miles northeast of Clear Spring in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a bluff facing south.

The house is a large two-story brick dwelling, painted white with three bays across the central block which is flanked by symmetrical wings one bay in width. The central block has a hipped roof which is topped by a balustrade connecting double interior chimneys. The wings each have inside end chimneys. A small pedimented dormer is centered on the roof. Behind the central block and its wings is a long el consisting of two gable roofed sections connected on an axis and extending to the rear or north of the front section. The entire el is ten bays in length. Both sections of the el have inside end chimneys as well as interior chimneys. The roofs of all parts of the house are covered with sheet metal and painted green.

Foundations of this house are of local fieldstone. At the front of the structure the foundations are not easily visible above the ground. At the rear of the front section and at the wings, the stone foundations increase to the height of a full story to accommodate the slope of the terrain.

The brick walls are laid in common bond. There is little decorative work associated with the exterior walls, except for the flat arches over the windows of the facade and semi-circular recessed arches between the second story windows and the eaves of the symmetrical wings. Brick arches top an entrance to a passageway through the ground level of the northernmost section of the el. There is also evidence of a wide opening under a brick arch which has since been enclosed on the east side of the same section.

The exterior woodwork is generally simple except for the elements of the facade. Plainly molded cornice and boxing finish the eaves of the front section and of the el. A simple board is placed at the ends of the roof at the gables of the el sections. Elaborate woodwork, however, is associated with the front door. The door opening is topped with a wide transom and is flanked by sidelights which carry double panes. Fluted doric colonettes are present on either side of the eight-panel door. Paneled jambs complete the entrance way. A one-bay, one-story entrance porch sheds the front door. It is a modern structure which is supported by plain square doric columns at the corners and plain round doric columns on either side of brick steps. The small dormer on the roof above the entrance shows considerable decorative woodwork. The only other expanse of woodwork associated with the exterior of the house is a double porch which extends along the length of the south portion of the el. This porch is supported by five square posts at each level.

The house has numerous windows which vary in appearance and design. At the front section, the windows of the second story and the symmetrical wings contain six-over-six double-hung sashes. The lower windows which flank the main entrance have been enlarged to ten-over-ten sashes with the added panes separated by thick wooden decoratively molded supporting bars. There is little trim associated with the windows of the facade. Window openings in other portions of the house are generally small in size containing six-over-six sashes. The northernmost section of the el contains a part of small three-over-three pane windows under its eaves. Window openings in this section have architrave trim.

The house has many doors all of which are much plainer than the front entrance which opens into a wide formal stair hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET.)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>This property in 1881 was purchased by Governor William T. Hamilton during his term in office.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stafford Hall's significance lies both in its history and in its architecture. Historically, it is worthy of note because it has had some prominent owners. Much of the early history of the property is unclear because of incomplete records. However, it appears that Dr. Charles Carroll was probably the first owner of this property which seems to have been part of a land grant called, "Hanover," dated June 10, 1750.¹ There is some evidence however that the land may previously have belonged to Evan Shelby who owned many thousands of acres in western Washington County. Deed records do not show the property called Stafford Hall until 1839 when several tracts (Montpelier, Stafford Hall, Woodside, Duddington, Millwood, Kaywood and Bradley's Farm) were sold by Abraham Barnes, Melchior B. Mason and John T. Mason to William Price and David Gost of Washington County (Liber UU, Folio 505). The records as well as local histories show that Abraham Barnes' name was really Abraham Mason and that he was bequeathed the estate of Richard Barnes of St. Mary's County, who owned approximately 5,000 acres, on the condition that he change his name to Barnes. The Barnes estate was known as Montpelier.

In 1844 the Stafford Hall property was transferred to Francis Dodge of Georgetown (Liber OHW 2, Folio 583). It was during Dodge ownership that a small Civil War skirmish occurred near the house.

William T. Hamilton, Governor of Maryland from 1879 to 1884 purchased the property at public sale in 1881 (Liber 81, Folio 564). According to local sources Stafford Hall was used as a summer home by the Hamiltons. The property remained in the Hamilton family until 1920 when it was purchased by Leo A. Cohill (Liber 157, Folio 532).

Architecturally, Stafford Hall reflects its several building periods. A detailed study of the interior and the structural evidence is necessary to form an accurate assessment of the history of its construction. From the exterior, however, it can be surmised that the front section is in a formal classical revival style of the mid to late 19th century. The northernmost end of the rear el appears to have been built as a service area. Its tall, thin chimneys are reminiscent of houses in eastern Maryland. The section of the wing which is attached to the front portion of the house is possibly one of the oldest visible parts of the structure. With its double porches and rather stocky chimneys it is very typical of western Maryland architecture of the early 19th century.

¹ Gerald J. Sword, "The Birthplace and Childhood Home of Isaac Shelby," prepared for John Frye, Chairman, Washington County Historical Advisory Committee, June, 1972, page 2.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.2 acres

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant		DATE August, 1973
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historic Sites Survey		
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex		
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

It is apparent that this house was built in several sections. There are at this time no substantiated dates indicating when construction took place. The Maryland Historical Trust survey taken in the summer of 1967 lists a date of 1832 and the builder as Judge John T. Mason. Mason and two of his brothers did own the property in 1832, but it is unlikely that the entire mansion was built at that time.

The property contains 9.2 acres. In addition to the large dwelling there is also a "V" notched log outbuilding, chinked with soft mortar and chips of wood. The log structure has no fireplace or chimney. Nearby there is also a partially subterranean brick-topped root cellar, a structure not frequently found in the area.

The dwelling house is in excellent condition and is at this time in no danger of exterior alteration or destruction.

DEED RECORDS

WA V-010 -- Stafford Hall, Washington County

1. Liber 387, Folio 667, August 25, 1962, 9.2 acres
Grantor: Henry Holtzapfel, III, Trustee for Leo A. Cohill
Grantee: Leo A. Cohill, Alice Cohill Marquez, Gale B. Cohill and Nancy Cohill Manuel.
2. Liber 157, Folio 532, April 7, 1920
Grantor: Julia Hamilton Briscoe
Grantee: Leo A. Cohill
3. Liber 81, Folio 564, December 13, 1881
Grantor: Henry H. Keedy and Tryon H. Edwards, trustees for Robert P. Dodge et al
Grantee: William T. Hamilton 625 acres, 2 roods, 31 perches, \$30, 123.60
4. Liber OHW 2, Folio 583, December 23, 1884
Grantor: William Price and David Gost
Grantee: Francis Dodge, 619 acres.
5. Liber UU, Folio 505, October 11, 1839
Grantor: Abraham Barnes, Melchior B. Mason, John R. Mason
Grantee: William Price and David Gost, various properties including Stafford Hall which contained 518 acres.
6. Will of Richard Barnes, Liber B, Folio 31



WA-U-010

S. FASCADÉ



WA-II-010

E SIDE



WA-I-010

LOG OUTBUILDING



WA-V-010

ROOT CELLAR